

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /099 W
-----271828Z 014423 /47

R 271304Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0992

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, CA
SUBJECT: MINISTER PARIZEAU ON ECONOMIC TERMS OF SEPARATION

REF: TORONTO 946

1. QUEBEC FINANCE MINISTER JACQUES PARIZEAU TOLD A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE ONTARIO ECONOMIC CONFERENCE APRIL 25 THAT IT WOULD BE BAD MANNERS ON HIS PART TO DISAGREE WITH ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS REGARDING ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CANADA AND AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC AND PROCEEDED TO TELL THE AUDIENCE THAT THE "REAL FIGURES" ARE CONTAINED IN A MASSIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL STUDY NOT BEING MADE PUBLIC BECAUSE ONE PROVINCE OBJECTS. PARIZEAU OBSERVED THAT ONTARIO AND QUEBEC WILL BE IN CLOSE ECONOMIC CONTACT "NO MATTER WHAT THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES ARE" AND THAT "IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS TRY TO REASSURE PUBLIC OPINION IN QUEBEC WHILE FEDERAL LEADERS TRY TO FRIGHTEN IT."

2. THE TORONTO STAR APRIL 26, IN REPORTING THE PARIZEAU SPEECH, QUOTED UNNAMED SOURCES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO AS (A) ADMITTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE STUDY ALLUDED TO BY PARIZEAU DOES EXIST, (B) THAT BRITISH COLUMBIA IS THE PROVINCE HOLDING UP DISCLOSURE AND (C) THAT THE FIGURES ARE NOT NEW AND GIVE A DISTORTED PICTURE. ACCORDING TO ONTARIO SOURCES QUOTED IN THE STAR, THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED ONLY LAST WEEK BY STATISTICS CANADA AND ROUGHLY MEASURES TAX REVENUES RAISED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EACH PROVINCE AND COMPARES IT WITH FEDERAL SPENDING IN THE PROVINCE. THE STUDY

ALLEGEDLY SHOWS THAT QUEBEC PAID JUST OVER DOLS 3 BILLION MORE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN TAXES IN THE 14-YEAR PERIOD THAN IT RECEIVED. ONTARIO PAID MORE THAN DOLS 26 BILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD.

3. BRITISH COLUMBIA'S APPROVAL TO RELEASE THE STUDY IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK AND STATISTICS CANADA IS LIKELY TO RELEASE ITS STUDY SOMETIME IN MAY. ACCORDING TO THE STAR ARTICLE, THE ONTARIO SOURCES SAID "STATSCAN, WHEN IT RELEASES THE FIGURES, WILL SAY THEY ARE INTERESTING BUT EXPERIMENTAL. THEY DON'T MEAN ANYTHING. PARIZEAU IS GRABBING AT STRAWS."
DIGGINS

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Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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